

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /046 W

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R 101724Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3344

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 2068

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, BE

SUBJECT: F-16 HIGH RESOLUTION GROUND MAPPING RADAR

1. WE UNDERSTAND FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DOD TEAM NOW IN BRUSSELS THAT DOD IS CONSIDERING DROPPING THE HIGH RESOLUTION GROUND MAPPING RADAR IN PRODUCTION OF F-16S IN ORDER TO SAVE MONEY. WE BELIEVE THAT TO DO SO COULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON BELGIAN GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IN F-16.

2. ONE OF AREAS IN WHICH F-16 IS CLEARLY SUPERIOR TO FRENCH F-1E IS IN ITS HIGH RESOLUTION GROUND MAPPING RADAR CAPABILITY. THIS FEATURE IS PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED BY KNOWLEDGEABLE BELGIAN EXPERTS GIVEN A) THE USUALLY ADVERSE LOCAL WEATHER CONDITIONS AND B) THE SMALL SIZE OF THE AIRSPACE IN WHICH BAF MUST OPERATE. A SELF-CORRECTING HIGH RESOLUTION GROUND MAPPING CAPABILITY IS THUS HIGHLY DESIRABLE AND A STRONG PLUS FOR THE F-16.

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3. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND THE NEED TO PARE F-16 COSTS

WHEREVER POSSIBLE, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT DROPPING THE
HIGH RESOLUTION GROUND MAPPING RADAR WOULD REDUCE
THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE F-16 TO THE BELGIANS.FIRESTONE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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